

December 29, 2008

NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The OSE will host the first of its new, quarterly training sessions on Part I of the Code of Ethics for State Employees at its office on January 15, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is the perfect opportunity for new state employees as well as any employees who might have missed an in-person training event at your agency.

Space is limited to 15 participants and registration is required. The registration deadline for this session is January 12, 2009. To register, send an e-mail to meredith.trimble@ct.gov and include: participant's name, agency, e-mail address and phone number. Registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis. The OSE is located at 18-20 Trinity Street, Suite 205, Hartford, CT.

FAQ – CONSULTING WORK WITH FORMER AGENCY

In our training sessions, we focus on the four so-called "Revolving Door" prohibitions of the Code. These are the prohibitions that follow a state employee – two for one year and two for a lifetime – after he or she leaves state service.

There is a little-known, but very important exception to the one-year prohibition concerning representing others for compensation before your former agency, illustrated in the following hypothetical.

Question:

I retired last month from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), where I was a psychologist. I have submitted an application to become a credentialed DCF provider, in which capacity I would conduct psychological assessments at a DCF facility. Is this permissible under the Code?

Answer:

For one year after leaving state service, you may not represent anyone other than the state, including yourself, for compensation before your former agency. According to the former State Ethics Commission, a person who seeks consulting work with his/her former agency would be representing someone other than the state (i.e., himself) in violation of the prohibition. To address this, the former Commission carved out a narrow exception that permits a former state employee to seek and obtain consulting work with his/her former agency provided the former employee is compensated at the same salary grade he/she received at the time of separation plus fringe benefits and necessary expenses. Thus, so long as the compensation you receive from DCF complies with the noted requirements, it is permissible for you to become a credentialed DCF provider.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of the staff of the Office of State Ethics, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

Best regards,

Meredith Trimble